

Appl. No. 09/681,792
Docket No. G16N-0262 / 75IN-125

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-39 are pending in the application. Claims 27-39 are allowed. Claims 1, 11-13, 20 and 24 are rejected. Claims 2-10, 14-19, 21-23, 25 and 26 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's comments regarding the allowability of the noted claims. Of the pending claims, Applicant has canceled Claims 1 and 11, and has amended Claims 2, 5-7, 12, 14 and 24, leaving Claims 2-10 and 12-39 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) have been traversed, that no new matter has been entered, and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Baumgartner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,703,251, hereinafter Baumgartner).

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kaufman III et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,514,677, hereinafter Kaufman III).

Claims 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Briedis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,510,951, hereinafter Briedis).

Claims 11-13, 20 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Newell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,042,966, hereinafter Newell).

Applicant traverses the Examiner's rejections for the following reasons.

The Examiner comments that Claims 2, 5, 6, 7, 14, 17 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding Claim 1

Applicant has canceled Claim 1, thereby obviating this rejection.

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Regarding Claims 11-13, 20 and 24

Applicant has canceled Claim 11 and has rewritten Claim 14 in independent form including all of the limitations of the parent claim and any intervening claim. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 14 is now directed to allowable subject matter.

Applicant has amended Claims 12 and 24 to depend from Claim 14.

As amended, Claims 12-13, 20 and 24, now depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 14.

Dependent claims inherit all of the limitations of the respective parent claim.

In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicant submits that the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) have been traversed and that Claims 12-13, 20 and 24 are now directed to allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw of these rejections.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 27-36 are allowed.

Claims 2, 5, 6, 7, 14, 17 and 21 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding Claims 2-10

Applicant has rewritten Claim 5 in independent form including limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim that Applicant regards as the invention. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 5 is now directed to allowable subject matter. Applicant has further amended Claims 2, 6 and 7 to depend from Claim 5. Accordingly, Claims 2-4 and 6-10 now depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 5.

Regarding Claim 12-26

Applicant has rewritten Claim 14 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 14 is now directed to allowable subject matter. Applicant has further amended

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Claims 12 and 24 to depend from Claim 14. Accordingly, Claims 12-13 and 15-26 now depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 14.

In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicant submits that Claims 2-10 and 12-26 are now directed to allowable subject matter, and respectfully requests notice thereof.

In light of the forgoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) have been traversed, and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time that is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the above identified Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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